

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A slip sheet capture mechanism, the slip sheet capture mechanism comprising:
a foot for holding a portion of the slip sheet; and
5 a nip roller for engaging and drawing the slip sheet in the direction of the foot and
into a nip.
2. A slip sheet capture mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foot comprises:
a foot frame; and
a friction pad on the foot frame for engaging the slip sheet.
- 10 3. A slip sheet capture mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nip roller draws
the slip sheet into the nip by rotating in the direction of the foot a predetermined
amount.
4. A slip sheet capture mechanism as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a follower
roller for cooperating with the nip roller to hold the slip sheet.
- 15 5. A slip sheet capture mechanism as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a slip
sheet sensor for determining whether a slip sheet is under the slip sheet capture
mechanism.
6. A slip sheet capture mechanism as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a pivot
frame for supporting the foot and the nip roller, the frame pivoting upward in response
20 to engagement with a stack of plates including a slip sheet to thereby urge the foot into
engagement with the slip sheet.
7. A slip sheet capture mechanism as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a pivot
detector for determining angular movement of the pivot frame.
8. A slip sheet capture mechanism as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a frame
25 for supporting the foot and the nip roller, the frame being connected to a substrate

transfer system so that the slip sheet is moved with the substrate from a stack of substrates.

9. A method for capturing a slip sheet, the method comprising:

holding a portion of the slip sheet with a foot; and

5 engaging and drawing the slip sheet in the direction of the foot and into a nip.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of holding the portion of the slip sheet comprises urging a foot against the slip sheet.

11. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of engaging and drawing the slip sheet comprises urging a nip roller into engagement with the slip sheet and then
10 rotating the nip roller in the direction of the foot.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of engaging and drawing the slip sheet further comprises drawing the slip sheet into a nip formed between the nip roller and a follower roller.

13. A method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising detecting a presence of a slip
15 sheet.

14. A method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising, after drawing the slip sheet into the nip, extracting the slip sheet from a stack of substrates.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the step of extracting the slip sheet is performed in concert with an extraction of a substrate from the stack of substrates.

20 16. A method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising expelling the slip sheet from the nip after extraction from the stack of substrates.